

Often unmarried students who are under the age of 24 are required to provide parental data on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). They are referred to as dependent students. However, a dependent student who meets the definitions of being “unaccompanied and homeless” or “self-supporting and at risk of being homeless” may be deemed an independent student (for financial aid purposes only) by the Office of Financial Aid through the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification process. A student who is verified as being unaccompanied and homeless is exempt from providing parent data on their FAFSA.

Remember that the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth FAFSA question in the **Student Other Circumstances** section refers to the determination of homelessness by an eligible agency. Did you answer “yes” on the FAFSA that you were determined an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth **on or after July 1, 2023**, by one of the following:

- high school or school district homeless liaison or designee
- Director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving those experiencing homelessness.
- Director or designee of a project supported by a federal TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant.
- Financial Aid Administrator (FAA)

*If you correctly answered “yes” on the FAFSA to the above question, DO NOT complete this form. If you answered “yes” in error, correct your FAFSA and submit this form with appropriate documentation.*

### **Unaccompanied Homeless Policy**

Annually, and on a case-by-case basis, students who are (1) unaccompanied and homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless may be deemed an independent student by the Office of Financial Aid through the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification process.

### **Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Process**

Students must complete and return the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Form and supporting documentation to Enrollment Services by **April 1, 2025**. Forms will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and all information will be kept confidential. Submitting an Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Form does not guarantee the applicant will be deemed an independent student.

Upon receipt of an Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Form, the Office of Financial Aid will review the student’s circumstance and supporting documentation. Additional documentation may be requested. Students who meet the definition of being unaccompanied and homeless will be deemed an independent student for the aid year.

The Office of Financial Aid will notify students via their Wright State University e-mail account when the result of their Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Form is available in their Financial Aid Dashboard on WINGS.

## Supporting Documentation

Students are required to submit supporting documentation. The supporting documentation will vary based on the student's circumstances. The Office of Financial Aid requests the following documentation:

- A signed statement from a third-party professional that verifies the student meets the definition of being unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. This person should know and understand the student's current circumstances.

### Examples of a third-party professional relationship include your:

- Current/former teacher
- Counselor (school or wellness)
- Members of clergy
- Social worker
- Employer

### Third-party professional Letters should document the following:

- A **signed** statement from a third-party professional should be on the **letterhead** of the business or organization that they represent. If letterhead is not obtainable, the person's name, title, phone number, business/organization, and address should be included.
- The student's name as it appears in our records
- The relationship between the professional and the student should be stated
- The verification of the student currently meeting the definition of being unaccompanied and homeless **or** self-supporting and at risk of being homeless

The Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to contact third-party professionals providing supporting documentation.

## Definitions

- **Parent**—a student's biological or adoptive parent. A student's stepparent, foster parent, or legal guardian is not considered a parent unless they have adopted the student.
- **Unaccompanied**—when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- **Homeless**—lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing. For example, temporarily living with other people because he/she has nowhere else to go; living in substandard housing; living in emergency or transitional shelters (FEMA trailers after disasters); living in motels, camping grounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or any public place not designed for humans to live; or living in the school dormitory (e.g., on-campus housing) if the student would otherwise be homeless.
  - Self-supporting—when a student pays for his/her own living expenses, including, fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
  - At risk of being homeless—when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
  - Fixed housing—stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
  - Regular housing—used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis.
  - Adequate housing—sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home.

Please complete this form in its entirety and return it and all supporting documentation to Enrollment Services **by April 1, 2025**. Students are encouraged to visit their Financial Aid Dashboard in WINGS to monitor the status of this form, including requests for additional documentation, or to view adjustments to their financial aid awards.

**A: Student Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ University ID (UID): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**B: 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Status**

**1. Please indicate your 2024-2025 FAFSA filing status (check one):**

- I have filed my 2024-2025 FAFSA and added Wright State University.
- I have not filed but I will file my 2024-2025 FAFSA and will add Wright State University (003078).

**2. Unusual Circumstance and Requested Documentation**

The following supporting documentation is requested and must be attached to this form:

- A written **and signed** statement from a third-party professional that verifies the student meets the definition of being unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. *(See Supporting Documentation for further instruction)*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Wright State University Office of Financial Aid cannot review Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Forms that are incomplete, submitted without proper documentation, or submitted after April 1, 2025.

**C: Certification**

- I certify that all information entered is complete and correct.
- I agree to submit additional documentation to support my circumstance should the Office of Financial Aid make such a request. I understand that the Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to contact third-party professionals who provide supporting documentation. I understand that I may not be deemed an independent student. I also understand that my 2024-2025 FAFSA must be filed with Wright State University listed as a school of choice for my form to be reviewed.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_